

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 02321 291623Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

-----090643 291629Z /45

O 291310Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8763

S E C R E T LUSAKA 2321

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV RH US UK

SUBJ: RHODESIA: GRAHAM/LOW MEETING WITH NKOMO

1. GRAHAM AND I SAW NKOMO THURSDAY MORNING. CHINEMANO WAS ALSO PRESENT. NKOMO HAD JUST COME FROM A MEETING WITH KAUNDA WHICH HAD BEEN DELAYED BY THE PRESENCE OF GERMAN CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT. AS A RESULT THE MEETING WITH NKOMO WAS SHORT, UNEMOTIONAL AND BUSINESSLIKE.

2. GRAHAM REVIEWED OUR MEETINGS WITH SMITH, SITHOLE, MUZOREWA AND CHIRAU. HE SAID SMITH DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE WORKING LEVEL MEETINGS COULD BE PRODUCTIVE AND PROPOSED INSTEAD A MEETING OF PRINCIPALS WHICH WOULD NOT BE PUBLICIZED UNTIL AFTER IT HAD OCCURRED. WE SAID THAT UK/US WOULD BE PRESENT IN A CAPACITY AND AT A LEVEL TO BE DETERMCNED. SMITH UNDERSTOOD THAT HE COULD NOT JUST STAND ON THE MARCH 3 AGREEMENT AND THAT THE MEETING WOULD HAVE TO GO BEYOND THAT. WHILE HE HAD NOT YET DISCUSSED THIS WITH HIS COLLEAGUES ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, HE BELIEVED THAT IF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WAS PREPARED TO MOVE AHEAD WITH THIS IDEA HE COULD GET THEM TO COME.

3. NKOMO RECEIVED THE SUGGESTION THOUGHTFULLY. HE COMPLAINED MILDLY THAT THE SALISBURY GROUP WAS NOT SERIOUS IN ITS DESIRE TO SEEK ACCOMMODATION. EVERY DAY 20 OR 30 WERE BEING KILLED AND

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 LUSAKA 02321 291623Z

THE REGIME HAD JUST BANNED A ZAPU RALLY IN SALISBURY WHICH IT HAD PREVIOUSLY APPROVED. SMILINGLY, HE ASSOCIATED US WITH THE BLAME THOUGH HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT AS LONG AS THE WAR CONTINUED, SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL CONCESSIONS WERE UNLIKELY. NKOMO SAID THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO PUT THE SUGGESTION TO HIS CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND THEN TALK TO MUGABE. WE NOTED THE NEED TO MOVE AHEAD RAPIDLY AND SAID WE HAD DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF

HOLDING THE MEETING MID-JULY IN A PLACE LIKE TULI BOTSWANA.
WE HOPED WE COULD AVOID PROCEDURAL WRANGLES ABOUT NUMBERS,
POSITIONS AND WHO WAS ON WHOSE DELEGATION. THE IMPORTANT THING
WAS GETTING DOWN TO SERIOUS TALKS.

4. WE ASKED NKOMO WHETHER HE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS THE MATTER
WITH MUGABE OR WE SHOULD PROPOSE IT. HE RESPONDED IT SHOULD
BE US BUT THAT WE SHOULD NOT PUT IT TO MUGABE AS A SUGGESTION
FROM HIM. HE SAID HE WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE SEEING MUGABE
UNTIL THE OAU SUMMIT IN MID-JULY.

5. BEFORE NKOMO ARRIVED, GRAHAM AND I SPOKE AT SOME LENGTH WITH
MADZIMBAMUTO, MUNODAWAFA AND CHINEMANO ABOUT THE INCREASING LOSS
OF LIFE, THE POLARIZATION WHICH THAT CREATES AND THE NEED TO
CONTROL IT IF POSSIBLE. WE SPOKE ABOUT THE VUMBA MASSACRE AND
THE MORE RECENT MURDER OF THE TWO GERMAN JESUITS. THEY DENY THAT
THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE AND POINT OUT THAT IN MOST OF THESE CASES
THE MISSIONARIES INVOLVED HAD HAD CLOSE CONTACT WITH GUERRILLAS
IN THE PAST, INCLUDING A NUMBER OF MEETINGS WITH THEM.
MADZIMBAMUTO MENTIONED INCREASING PROBLEM IN SALISBURY OF THE
"SACKING" OF THEIR PEOPLE. AS THEY ARE LEAVING WORK, SOMEONE
COMES UP BEHIND THEM, PUTS A SACK OVER THEIR HEAD AND THEY
DISAPPEAR. THE POLICE ARE UNABLE TO SHED ANY LIGHT ON THE MATTER.
THEY CLEARLY BELIEVE THAT THESE MASSACRES ARE THE WORK OF
UNCONTROLLED ELEMENTS. THEY DID NOT SAY THE SELOUS SCOUTS WERE
RESPONSIBLE, BUT I THINK THEY HONESTLY BELIEVE THAT UNCONTROLLED
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 LUSAKA 02321 291623Z

ELEMENTS OF THE REGIME ARE AS LIKELY TO HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE
AS UNDISCIPLINED GUERRILLAS.

6. GRAHAM AND I ARE NOW CONSIDERING AT WHAT POINT WE SHOULD
GO TO MAPUTO. OUR INCLINATION IS TO RETURN TO SALISBURY AS
SCHEDULED TOMORROW (FRIDAY) WHERE WE OWE GAYLARD A REPLY TO
HIS PROPOSAL. WE WOULD THEN GO ON TO MAPUTO ON MONDAY OR
TUESDAY.
LOW

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, CAT-B, DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS, SECRET MEETINGS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LUSAKA02321
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: ///////////////////////////////////////
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: n/a
Format: TEL
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978068/aaaaagiw.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: 0904c68c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2429345
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIA: GRAHAM/LOW MEETING WITH NKOMO
TAGS: PDEV, RH, US, UK, (GRAHAM, JOHN), (NKOMO, JOSHUA), (LOW, STEPHEN), (SMITH, IAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0904c68c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014